Welcome

Welcome to the 2016 edition of Stirling Minds. Throughout the magazine you can read about the personal and professional achievements of our alumni, staff and students – not least our swimming stars, who are off to Rio to represent Britain in the Olympic Pool.

The EU referendum resulted in a narrow decision for the UK to leave the European Union. The University of Stirling, however, is and will remain a European University. Our EU staff and students are part of the fabric of our scholarly community and contribute greatly to, and enrich all aspects of, university life. The value of young people from across Europe living and learning together is immeasurable and we will do everything possible to ensure that this is not diminished in any way. The launch of our new Strategic Plan for 2016-21 confirms our international outlook, our commitment to transform the lives of our students, develop our staff, and make a direct contribution to the community we serve.

As you read through these pages you will get a flavour of the many activities which are being planned to celebrate the University’s 50th Anniversary next year. Fifty years is a relatively short period of time and yet there have been great advances and change over the last five decades. Our graduate community represents half a century of memories and you are encouraged to get in touch to discuss how you can get involved in the celebrations.

Finally, I would like to warmly welcome all our new graduates to the Stirling alumni family. I hope that you too will play an active role in our alumni community and I look forward to meeting you at a future event. Regardless of whether you graduated in 2016, or in 1971, or any year in between, I hope you enjoy reading this magazine. As Stirling approaches its milestone half century anniversary next year, there has never been a better time to get involved.

With best wishes,

Kerry Bryson
Director for Advancement
Campus news 4  
Latest developments on campus

Stirling Council’s ambitions 8  
A positive outlook

Honorary graduates 10  
Congratulations to our 2016 Honorary graduates

Institute of Aquaculture 12  
The life aquatic

Academic profile 15  
Meet the academic

Centre for Child Wellbeing and Protection 16  
Securing our children’s future

Natural Sciences 18  
The birthplace of Buddha

Arts & Humanities 19  
Stirling’s stars shine bright

50th Anniversary 20  
Join us in celebrating our 50th Anniversary

Sporting success 22  
Get set for Rio

Archives and Art Collection 24  
Art and archives uncovered

British Council 26  
Kenny wins prestigious award

Alumni ambassador 27  
Merits of mentoring

Class notes 28  
Where are they now?

Sporting Hall of Fame 33  
Celebrating sporting success

Worldwide connections 34  
The world’s our oyster

Future leaders 36  
Sign up here

Entrepreneurialism 37  
With opportunity comes responsibility and success!

Alumni profiles 38  
Opportunity knocks

Events 40  
Recent and forthcoming events

Development update 42  
Making a difference
£1.1m boost to tackle global environmental conflicts

How humans and wildlife can co-exist successfully is one of the biggest environmental problems facing government agencies and communities across the globe. Stirling’s Environmental Scientist Dr Nils Bunnefeld, has recently landed £1.1m in funding to tackle the issue.

ConFooBio, a five-year, £1.1m international study, funded by a European Research Council Starting Grant, aims to solve the conflict between those promoting biodiversity conservation and those ensuring food security. Spanning seven locations across the Arctic, UK, Europe and Africa, the study will produce a new model to both predict and resolve such conflicts.

Setting up research bases to examine communities as diverse as Gabon in Central Africa, Orkney in Scotland, and Sweden, Norway and Denmark in Scandinavia, Bunnefeld and his team aim to produce outcomes that protect livelihoods, as well as to promote and protect the wildlife in these areas. Bunnefeld said: “Each year, governments across the world pay out millions in compensation to farmers for crops destroyed by birds and mammals. In developing countries for example, elephants can ruin an entire community’s annual crop yield overnight. Such conflicts are difficult to resolve and negotiations often stall.

“Creating a process that achieves a positive resolution for all parties involved is our goal and we will do this through existing expertise, extensive field research and a pioneering combination of academic approaches from social sciences, economics and ecology.” The model will be used by a wide range of international agencies, including the United Nations and the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity & Ecosystem Services. The model will also benefit UK agencies, including the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs and Scottish Natural Heritage.

It’s official: we’re in the top 25% of international universities globally

Data from the Times Higher Education University Rankings for 2015-16 places the University of Stirling among the top 25% of the world’s 200 most international universities. The 800-strong list highlights the world’s most outward-looking institutions, examining the diversity of the staff and student body at each, as well as how often academics collaborate with other international institutions.

Staff and international students celebrate graduation
Dick Pound, the former Vice President of the International Olympic Committee and founding President of the World Anti-Doping Agency, explored how recent events have shown the discrepancy between what is said and what is done in the fight against doping in sport. He also shared his thoughts on how ‘clean’ athletes can be better protected against those who cheat.

As Scotland’s University for Sporting Excellence, we prepare world-class athletes for global competitions and lead research in sports policy and science,” commented Dr Paul Dimeo, Senior Lecturer in Sport Policy, “so it is of great interest to hear Dick Pound’s views, and a great honour to welcome one of the world’s leading anti-doping spokespeople to campus.”

The ‘gold-getters’

A team of five MSc students from the University of Stirling Management School has taken top spot at the UK final of the prestigious CFA (Chartered Financial Analysis) Institute Research Challenge.

Widely considered the ‘Investment Olympics’ for students, the contest attracts top talent from across the UK, with the winning Stirling team seeing off competition from Said Business School, University of Oxford, Imperial College Business School and CASS Business School, City University, London. The Stirling team, the members of which are all studying for an MSc in Investment Analysis, included (L:R) Kwabena Boasiako (Ghana), Quynh Huong Nguyen (Vietnam), Chris Brown (UK), Ting Hu (China) and Xinyi Yao (China).
University launches five-year Strategic Plan

Launched in April 2016, the University’s new Strategic Plan sets out our vision for the next five years and has been shaped by the people who will deliver it. Guiding decision-making over this period, including our landmark 50th Anniversary in 2017, it was developed as a result of one of the widest consultations in the University’s history.

Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Gerry McCormac said: “At Stirling we take pride in providing education with purpose and conducting research that makes a difference to society. Our aim is to unlock the full potential of our students and staff, so that they can use their knowledge and skills to shape the world in a positive way. Our ambitions for the future, set out in the Strategic Plan, can be achieved through our collective will, passion and commitment.”

By delivering on these commitments, the University will transform the lives of students, develop staff and make a direct contribution to the communities we serve, and who benefit from the fruits of our research and the skills of our graduates.

The four high level aims of the strategy are to:

- Be one of the top 25 universities in the UK
- Increase our income by £50 million
- Enhance our research profile by 100 per cent
- Reinforce internationalisation across every area of our business.

More information:

To download a copy of the Strategic Plan or watch the film visit: [http://stir.ac.uk/nl](http://stir.ac.uk/nl)
University of Stirling Management School joins global elite

The University’s SMS MBA and MBM programmes have gained accreditation by the Association of MBAs (AMBA). This double accolade puts SMS in elite company, with only a small number of business schools globally holding the accreditation for both programmes.

Stirling enjoys twin triumphs at the Herald Higher Education Awards

The inaugural Herald Higher Education Awards in the spring, saw Stirling triumph in two categories. The first win of the evening was the ‘Innovation Technology Excellence Award’ in recognition of the groundbreaking Amplify Trading Boot Camp. The week-long Boot Camp initiative is delivered by global financial trading and training company Amplify Trading in collaboration with SMS, and provides Masters students on finance-related courses with practical experience of how financial markets function.

The University’s ‘Host and Champions’ exhibition was also successful, winning ‘Campaign of the Year’. The exhibition, developed with the support of Commonwealth Games Scotland and Legacy 2014, celebrates Scotland’s relationship with the Commonwealth Games and includes a wealth of photographs, designs, clothing, papers and other artefacts from the University’s Commonwealth Games Archive.

TEDx takes off at Stirling

The University’s first ever TEDx event was held on campus in April.

TEDx is a non-profit organisation devoted to spreading and sharing ideas, usually in the form of short, powerful talks. The Stirling event welcomed professional TEDx speakers, as well as Stirling students and staff to the stage to take up the mic. Marketing team member and student Amy McCreadie said: “Our speakers were engaging and thought-provoking and the audience really connected to the themes of mental health and positivity. We hope this event will be the first of many.” The event was hailed a resounding success and was made possible thanks to the generous donations of our alumni to the Stirling Fund. 
Carruth has every reason to be optimistic as Stirling Council opens formal negotiations with the UK and Scottish Governments to secure a City Deal for Stirling. He explains: “We are building upon Stirling’s world-beating assets to attract investment in six signature projects – a Digital District, Grow-On Space, Harbour development, a new City Park, regeneration of the Mercat Cross and City Centre, and a project to bring the River Forth back into the heart of Stirling life as a key tourism and leisure resource. Investment in these projects will develop a more vibrant city, high quality cultural and leisure opportunities, a digital district linked to academia and opportunities to work together to create solutions for the modern world.

“This major programme of investment for Stirling has been developed through a robust collaborative and evidence-based approach, with research, economic analysis and extensive consultation with businesses, stakeholders and communities, overseen by the Stirling City Commission, of which the University is a member. Our work with the City Commissioners and stakeholders means that our business cases are unique, authentic and deliverable.

“There are many factors that make Stirling an entrepreneurial city ripe for investment, including its excellent location and transport links, favourable cost of living and strong strategic partnerships between industry in key global sectors, education and the Council. The Stirling University Innovation Park, home to over 40 research and development businesses, is an example of successful collaboration between the academic and business worlds. Forth Valley College is developing a partnership Skills Framework with businesses in Stirling’s growth areas such as the financial, digital and construction sectors to ensure there are skills, training and community pathways to employment for the future.
“We have aligned our interests and will build on our strengths – Stirling has highly competitive international sub-sector offerings such as financial technology; we are also home to several highly successful businesses in the food and drink sector; and the University has an international reputation for aquaculture, dementia care and sport and wellbeing.

“Stirling is second to none with conditions that many cities should envy: the city was recently voted the best place in Scotland to start a business and 8th in the UK\(^1\), the University of Stirling is a top UK research intensive university and 3rd in the UK for employability\(^2\); Stirling is Scotland’s most entrepreneurial city with 100 more businesses per 10,000 population than the Scottish average\(^3\); Stirling’s business survival rate from 1-5 years is consistently above the UK average\(^4\); and Stirling is ranked 11th out of 189 UK cities for quality of life by 21-44 year olds\(^5\).”

Finally, to everyone who is passionate about Stirling, he says: “The City Deal will build on our success and see Stirling positioned as a major economic and cultural player. Our outlooks and markets are both national and international, and Stirling will be a world class destination of choice, with excellent opportunities in business and education, while ensuring that the health, wellbeing and employment needs of all our communities will be met.

Together we will create an environment in Stirling of innovation and creativity. We will work together, be connected and create the conditions to prosper.

“I am calling on you to spread the word that Stirling is a great place to do business, to study, to live and to play. Its future is exciting and it is a great place to invest.”

Now that sounds like a challenge we can all get behind!

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3. ONS Enterprise and Local Units (2015)
Honorary graduates of 2016

The University welcomed some very influential guests to join the 2016 cohort accepting their awards during the summer graduation ceremonies on 29th and 30th June.

The University of Stirling’s Honorary graduates of 2016...

Alan Simpson OBE

“I am thrilled and delighted to receive this degree and to be honoured by such a prestigious institution. Today we are witnessing students receiving degrees from the Faculty of Health Sciences and Sport and the University of Stirling Management School which are just two of the areas where Stirling is a real world leader and where the University’s contribution is making such a positive impact on people’s lives.”

Alan received the honorary ‘Doctor of the University’ degree in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the University and for services to Higher Education.

Alan served as Chair of Court at the University of Stirling from 2007 to 2015, having served as a member of court for a decade previously. During his tenure he fostered strong relationships within the UK Higher Education sector and led the University of Stirling through a period of growth and investment.

Elaine Wyllie

“T The University of Stirling is Scotland’s University for Sporting Excellence and I’m delighted that it has chosen to recognise the positive impact that ‘The Daily Mile’ has on the health and wellbeing of children everywhere. The University’s decision to conduct robust and meaningful research into this initiative will have far-reaching consequences for the health of future generations of children in the UK and beyond.”

Elaine received an honorary doctorate in recognition of her outstanding contribution to the community through the implementation of ‘The Daily Mile’ at St Ninian’s Primary School in Stirling and the subsequent influence of this intervention throughout the UK and beyond.

As a Head Teacher, Elaine noticed poor levels of fitness among her pupils and became concerned about levels of childhood inactivity, obesity and the impact on our children’s health. She instigated ‘The Daily Mile’ physical activity programme at St Ninian’s, where every pupil
walks or runs a mile a day. This simple programme has been immensely popular and effective, and has been introduced throughout Scotland, the rest of the UK and Europe.

Elaine’s work has also been recognised at the Pride of Britain Awards 2015, where she was awarded ‘UK Teacher of the Year’.

**Professor Zhengshuan Li**

Professor Zhengshuan Li received the honorary ‘Doctor of the University’ degree in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the promotion of Scottish literature in China. A renowned scholar of English literature, Professor Li has published several translated volumes, including works by Mao Zedong and Dalai Lama VI, as well as Chinese classics and Tibetan Gnomic verses.

This honour also acknowledges Professor Li’s partnership work with the University of Stirling and his role promoting links between Stirling, Hebei Normal University and the Chinese educational authorities. He was instrumental to the development of the BA Honours Degree in Translation and Interpreting, launched in 2013.

**Dr Rita Colwell**

“It is a very special honour to be recognised for scientific achievement by the University of Stirling. We live in an era of scientific advances that benefit society in many ways and the University of Stirling is an internationally recognised science university.”

Dr Colwell received her doctorate for her outstanding contribution to Science. She is a distinguished Professor at the University of Maryland, College Park and Johns Hopkins University and Bloomberg School of Public Health. Her interests are focused on genomics, biodiversity and molecular microbial systematics and ecology. She has authored or co-authored 19 books and over 700 scientific publications. A member of the National Academy of Science, Dr Colwell has been awarded numerous accolades, including the ‘Stockholm Water Prize’, the ‘Order of the Rising Sun’ in Japan and the ‘US National Medal of Science’.

University Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Gerry McCormac said: “It’s always tremendously inspiring to have such a variety and depth of talent gathered together for recognition like this. The impact that these distinguished members of the ‘University of Stirling family’ have made in their fields continues to be felt not just in Scotland but around the globe. It’s a tremendous honour for me to be able to bestow them with these thoroughly well-deserved honorary degrees.”
The life aquatic

With two senior appointments in Migaud and Glencross, several prestigious awards and millions in research funding secured already this year, it’s fair to say that the Institute of Aquaculture has been making something of a splash lately…

Professor Brett Glencross pictured above
An international reach

Professor Brett Glencross joined the Institute as Professor of Nutrition and Director of Research at the Institute of Aquaculture. Originally from Brisbane, Glencross, was previously Technical Manager with the Aqua-feed division of Ridley, Australia’s largest provider of animal solutions and products.

This isn’t his first time at the University, having completed a six-month sabbatical in 2012, running a project in Machrihanish. During this time, the Glencross family lived on-campus at Airthrey Castle Yard, and he insists all adapted well – even to the Scottish weather! One of Professor Glencross’ key responsibilities is oversight of the impact of the Institute’s research and he is passionate about his role in shaping the future:

“Our vision for the Institute is very ambitious. We’ve seen a lot of investment in facilities and staff to ensure the legacy of the research we carry out here endures.

“Our people are absolutely essential to this,” he continues. “I really enjoy the multicultural environment at Stirling. There are currently over 30 different nationalities of postgraduate students and our staff is also very diverse – this international mix strengthens our research impact as we share experience and expertise across the group. “We are also very fortunate to have a strong, engaged, supportive group of alumni all over the globe, who are key to ensuring our continued success and impact on global challenges.

I look forward to meeting some of them at the Aquaculture Europe Conference in September.”

Professor Glencross concludes: “It’s an exciting time to be a part of the Institute. We have a strong international reputation for carrying out research with impact and we will continue to build on this to drive forward developments in aquaculture and sustainable food production.”

For the uninitiated, aquaculture in layman’s terms is aquatic agriculture. Aquaculture produces over 50 per cent of all fish consumed globally, but there is a lot more to it than ‘fish farming’. The University’s Institute of Aquaculture covers four main areas: sustainability; health and welfare; nutrition, genetics and reproduction.

Ranked first for aquaculture research and training in the UK, the vast majority of the Institute’s research is classed as world-leading, providing over 24% of the University’s total research income. In addition to the on-campus facilities, the Institute has a marine environmental research laboratory in Machrihanish, Kintyre; a freshwater research unit in Buckieburn, near Stirling, and collaborates closely with numerous commercial fish farms across the globe, which also facilitate academic research.

Professor Hervé Migaud, Professor in Fish Physiology, Reproduction Team Leader for the last 12 years and recently-appointed Deputy Director of the Institute, has just returned from a field trip to Brazil, where he leads a project with Embrapa on Arapaima gigas, an emblematic Amazonian species. Returning to Stirling, his thoughts turn to the September Aquaculture Europe 2016 Conference in Edinburgh and in particular, a dedicated alumni event hosted by the University of Stirling’s Institute of Aquaculture: He says:

“This is a very exciting time as we develop an ambitious vision for the future of the Institute and University, with major investments in our facilities and staff. We are looking forward to sharing our plans and exchanging ideas with our fantastic alumni community from all around the world.”

Delegate places for September’s conference are expected to book-up fast. To find out more and secure your place, go to: ☝️ http://bit.ly/29o8gH1
Innovative Collaboration Award

Professor Hervé Migaud and his team won the ‘Innovative Collaboration Award’ at the Scottish Enterprise Life Sciences Awards in Edinburgh. The team worked in collaboration with world-leading salmon companies, including Marine Harvest Scotland, Scottish Sea Farms and feed manufacturer Biomar on a £4m project co-funded by the Scottish Aquaculture Innovation Centre. The project aims to develop the sustainable farming of domesticated, disease-free cleaner fish (Ballan Wrasse) as part of an integrated pest management strategy against sea lice. Cleaner fish provide a biological control alternative to traditional chemical treatments.

A taste of TAPAS

Researchers from the Institute of Aquaculture will lead a team of European experts in a four-year study worth almost £5.8m, to establish new strategies and models for sustainable growth in the aquaculture industry. The Tools for Assessment and Planning of Aquaculture Sustainability (TAPAS) project will provide cost-effective tools and practices for the European aquaculture sector.

Emeritus Professor awarded the Queen’s Medal

Emeritus Professor Randolph Richards CBE is the recipient of this year’s Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons Queen’s Medal – the highest honour that a veterinary surgeon can receive. He is the third person ever to be awarded the medal and a long-standing advocate of animal welfare, particularly fish health and welfare. He received his award at a RCVS event on 15th July.

University of Stirling Aquaculture Europe 2016, Edinburgh International Conference Centre, Stand 15/16

We’d be delighted if you would join us for lunch on Wednesday 21 September at 1pm in the Harris Suite within the EICC. There will be a presentation on the Institute’s strategy as well as an opportunity to meet staff and network with other alumni attending the conference. To register for lunch, please contact: alumni@stir.ac.uk
Meet the academic...

the five-minute interview

Deputy Principal (Research) Judith Phillips

Professor Judith Phillips is Deputy Principal (Research) and Professor of Gerontology. Her research interests are in the social and behavioural aspects of ageing.

1. Have you always been in academia?
I come from the mining valleys of South Wales and most of my peers didn’t get the opportunity to go to university, so I was very privileged to do so. University opened up numerous other opportunities and possibilities for me, which resulted in a social worker post with older people for a couple of years.

2. What do you like most about your job?
Being in academia has allowed me to follow my passion for research and to become part of a worldwide community of researchers endeavouring to make the world a fairer place for older people. My greatest satisfaction was seeing some of my research work being taken up in policy documents and guidance and having the chance to be at the forefront of discussion on both UK and Welsh government policy making. I’ve always focused on applied research, so I’m well known in academic and policy circles for my work on work-life balance for carers of an older adult, and for working with older people in different environmental settings such as care homes, or urban and rural environments.

3. The most important advice I’d give to PhD students is:
One of the most important skills you need, and one which is often underestimated, is the ability to network and to sustain those networks. One of the things I find rewarding is when I’ve introduced my PhD students to key people in the discipline and they get invited to join research bids.

4. What’s your style of working?
Collaboration and teamwork is vital. I have always enjoyed working with others rather than as a lone researcher. I’m a fan of shared leadership. We spend most of our life at work so it should be a supportive environment, with opportunities to develop strengths and where everyone is valued for their contribution.

5. In my ‘spare’ time...
I enjoy hill walking. The Alps in summer are my favourite holiday destination.

6. What are some of the main challenges in your job?
There are a number of challenges as Deputy Principal (Research): delivering on our strategy ‘25:50:100i’ (see page 6) is critical if we are to continue as a successful university. There are numerous interdisciplinary opportunities to work across the University to raise the profile of research and support greater grant capture. We have many brilliant researchers doing world-leading research across the entire University.
The Scottish Government’s vision of making Scotland ‘the best place in the world to grow up’ moved a step closer to fruition earlier this year, with the official launch of the University’s new Centre for Child Wellbeing and Protection at the Stirling Court Hotel. Scotland’s children were at the forefront in March as 150 delegates, including representatives from local and national government and the third sector, gathered to hear from the University’s new Deputy Principal (Research) Judith Phillips; the Scottish Government’s Director for Children and Families Ms Olivia McLeod, and Director of the new Centre, Professor Brigid Daniel pictured above, who together launched the landmark event.

During the event, guest speakers including Professor Julie Taylor, Professor of Child Protection at the University of Birmingham (and Honorary Professor at the new Centre), and Ashley Cameron, a History and Politics student at the University and a Care Leavers’ ambassador for ‘Who Cares? Scotland’, gave insightful presentations.

Securing our children’s future

Professor Brigid Daniel with a member of Stirling’s Big Noise Orchestra
The finale, as befitting the occasion, was in the hands of Scotland’s children themselves, with a musical concert by Stirling’s Big Noise Orchestra. The orchestra is supported by Systema Scotland, a musical programme aimed at fostering confidence in young people — and judging by the orchestra’s rousing and emotional performance, it’s also fostering plenty of budding musical talent too!

The vision of the new Centre for Child Wellbeing and Protection is for: ‘Children at risk of compromised development in Scotland and beyond, to benefit from research inspired and led by the University of Stirling and from services delivered by professionals educated at the University of Stirling’. This remit underlines the importance of the Centre’s research for all those who work with young people; parents and of course the young people and children, who the Centre ultimately aims to benefit, nurture and protect.

The Centre has already started to work on its aims, with a range of research projects underway, including the ‘Seamless Services’ project — a collaboration between the University, Aberlour Child Care Trust, Children in Scotland, NHS Forth Valley and Social Work Scotland. ‘Seamless Services’ will critically examine the impact of Scotland’s framework for children’s services upon the wellbeing of children in Scotland. ‘Seamless Services’ will consider the contributions of Health, Education and Social Work to the wellbeing of children.

In addition, the Centre will also undertake research into the issues that affect children’s development at an individual, family and structural level, from pre-birth through the transition to the school years and beyond. Supported by investment from the University, the Centre will also lead new research for a range of partners and organisations, and promote knowledge exchange and post-qualifying education in child wellbeing and protection.

Ms Olivia McLeod welcomed the Centre as:

“An exciting and timely addition to our national landscape, with an important role to play in our ambition of making Scotland the best place in the world to grow up.”

Professor Brigid Daniel added:

“The University of Stirling has a strong track record of research and education in the areas of child protection, health and education, and the launch of the Centre is a timely opportunity to bring together many of the foremost researchers in these fields of work, to work together to make a real difference to the lives of all children in Scotland, especially those children who are at risk of long-term disadvantage.”

Keep up-to-date with developments at the new Centre:

- For further updates sign up to the Centre’s mailing list: a.m.gadda@stir.ac.uk
- Follow the Centre on Twitter at: @StirCCW
- Find out more at the Centre’s website: http://stir.ac.uk/198
Professor Ian Simpson is part of a collaborative team working on a six-year project called ‘Strengthening the conservation and management of Lumbini, the birthplace of Lord Buddha’. The team includes academics from the University of Durham and the Nepalese Government and is also supported by UNESCO and National Geographic. The aim of the project is to develop our understanding of the early archaeological sequences of three key sites close to the birthplace of Buddha – Lumbini, Tilaurakot and Ramagrama.

According to Buddhist tradition, Queen Maya Devi, the mother of Lord Buddha, gave birth to him while holding on to the branch of a tree in Lumbini. Geo-archaeological research carried out by Professor Simpson has provided significant scientific evidence to challenge the perceived timing of Buddha’s birth date – which can now be set at around 550 BC.

Professor Simpson commented: “I have been very privileged to be involved in this very successful project. Our collective input to the long-term management and preservation of this site is becoming increasingly important to Lumbini and the surrounding area, which has become an increasingly popular destination for both tourists and pilgrims.”

“As well as helping to preserve the landscape, our work has also had a positive impact on the local economy, encouraging and supporting the creation of small businesses in a way that is sustainable in the long term.”
Congratulations to Fourth Year students Kate Galbraith, Jamie Sutherland, Calum McIntosh and Sean Hayman from this year’s Documentary Production course, who picked up the ‘Best Broadcast’ award for their documentary, ‘The Cornerman’, at the Scottish Student Journalism Awards in Glasgow. The awards are a celebration of the best of Scottish student media talent, and are judged by industry professionals – Stirling have now enjoyed success in the ‘Best Broadcast’ category for three years in a row.

‘The Cornerman’ features Rab Bannan, ‘the beating heart’ of the Barn Boxing Club in Coatbridge, who has over 40 years of experience turning lives around and developing young boxers into world-class champions. Kate Galbraith, said of the whole experience: “We are honoured to win the award, and delighted with how the film has been received. This experience has not only opened our eyes to the world of documentary production but has also shown us that the most touching stories can lie in the most unexpected places.”

Dario Sinforiani, Senior Teaching Fellow added: “This award and the students’ compelling documentary is testament to the continuing quality of the work produced here at Stirling.”

And there’s more… Congratulations also go to Jemma Campbell, Laura Beaton, Gemma Miller and Andrea Linhova, who received a ‘commended’ certificate for ‘Ups and Downs’, and to Stefan Schmid, who also got a ‘commended’ in the ‘Calum MacDonald Overall Excellence within Student Journalism Award’, for his journalism project work on the Greek migrant crisis.

Watch here

‘The Cornerman’  

‘Ups and Downs’  

MOOCs set to be massive

MOOCs (Massive Open Access Online Courses) are online courses aimed at unlimited participation and open access via the web. They are quickly becoming an established method of opening up access to university standard education for all.

Stirling launched its first two MOOCs this year, both with very different themes: ‘Gothic Imagination’ and the ‘EU Referendum’. The reaction to both has been singularly positive.

Corrinne Gallagher graduated from the University in 1998 with a BA Hons in Film and Media Studies and Religious Studies, and thought she had ‘left her University days behind her,’ until recently: “Finding the online course on the EU referendum was a really useful way to help inform my voting decision and it was great to be back at Stirling, albeit virtually,” Corrinne told us.
In 2017 the University celebrates its 50th Anniversary and plans are in full swing to mark this important milestone.

What was happening in 1967?

The University of Stirling was founded, having been elected from a field of candidates which included places such as Dumfries, Inverness, Ayr, Falkirk, Perth and Cumbernauld. The UK, under Harold Wilson, was grappling with entry into the EEC. North Sea gas was pumped ashore for the first time. The year also bore witness to the world’s first heart transplant, Concorde, ATM machines, and the pocket calculator. Perhaps the most notable academic discovery of the time fell to Dame Jocelyn Bell Burnell for her discovery of the first radio pulsars – later described as “the greatest astronomical discovery of the twentieth century.”

50 years is a relatively short period of time and yet there have been great advances and change. 50 years on, the University of Stirling remains at the forefront of world class research and teaching.

In 2017 the University’s current calendar of events will have an anniversary twist and you can read about the Sporting Hall of Fame on page 33. Other activities include a series of new innovation lectures, Japan Week and international festivals, alumni reunions around the world, events to showcase the impact Stirling has made over the past 50 years and an Open Day scheduled for March 2017. All the details will be published in November 2016.

Stirling: our story through 50 objects

We are commissioning a new publication to tell Stirling’s story in an innovative and visual way. The book will showcase the work
“50 years is a relatively short period of time and yet there have been great advances and change. 50 years on, the University of Stirling remains at the forefront of world class research and teaching.”

Calling all 1967 intake!

I am producing a modest publication to present to the University from the founding class as part of the 50th Anniversary celebrations in 2017. I would be very interested to hear your thoughts and personal experiences as part of the first group to pass through the University of Stirling. I can be contacted directly at 67group@mybtinternet.com. I look forward to hearing from you!

Alastair Gentleman
BA Biology (1971)

Get involved

If you would like to suggest an object or theme – or if you would like to discuss or contribute to the project – please contact the Advancement team by emailing: alumni@stir.ac.uk

Please contact us if you would like advance notice of the 50th Anniversary events timetable. We look forward to hearing from you.

of the institution, its ambition, its people, and its cultural, educational and social assets.

How does one condense 50 years of history, memories, facts and photographs into one publication? There is no way to include everything. We have decided to re-tell the history through 50 objects or themes that reflect the life of the University and the personal experiences of those who have contributed to its growth. The book will be strong on images and demonstrate the University’s impact over the past 50 years and look to its future.

Objects, such as the ceremonial silver mace used at Graduation; buildings, such as Airthrey Castle at the heart of the campus; the accolade, ‘Scotland’s University for Sporting Excellence’ and themes such as social justice, innovation, and our environmental credentials are all on the longlist.

This is an invitation to all our alumni and friends to add your suggestions to the list for consideration. What does Stirling mean to you? What are your memories of your time at Stirling? Perhaps it was your graduation day, a favourite piece in the Art Collection, a building on campus, or a much-loved band that played in the Students’ Union; or perhaps it’s the impact of some inspirational academic research or a favourite member of staff?

Students celebrating Rag Week
As the countdown to this year’s Olympic Games begins, excitement is building: nowhere more so than at the University of Stirling, which will count three of its students and Robbie Renwick, an alumnus of the University of Strathclyde who trains at Stirling, among those taking the plunge to represent Team GB in Rio this summer.

Left to right: Robbie Renwick: 200m Freestyle, Ross Murdoch: 100m Breast Stroke, Duncan Scott: 100m Freestyle, Craig Benson: 200m Breast Stroke
Stirling’s swimming stars (four of 63 who train at Stirling), qualified for the Olympics via leading performances at the British Swimming Championships in April. They are among 26 swimmers selected to represent Team GB in the Olympic Pool this summer. They will be clocking up 30 hours of training every week until August, between the gym and the pool at the National Swimming Academy on campus, under the watchful eyes of performance coaches Ben Higson (also a member of the GB Olympic Swimming Coaching Team), and Steve Tigg. First year student Duncan Scott said: “It’s an absolute honour to represent Team GB and to attend my first Olympics. I’ve been building up to this for a long time but didn’t start believing it was possible until the start of this season.”

Performance Coach Steve Tigg added: “The team has put in a tremendous amount of work over the last year; including the time and support put in by Scottish Swimming and the sportscotland Institute of Sport to ensure the athletes and coaches are always attended to. It’s this dedication and professionalism across the board that has helped achieve Olympic team selection.”

Don’t forget to tune in to the Olympic coverage in August to cheer on Stirling’s swimmers, as they compete against the best in the world! Good luck guys – or ‘Boa Sorte’ as they say in Rio!

**Director of Sport, Cathy Gallagher**

“IT is with much anticipation and intention that I undertake the role of Director of Sport at the University of Stirling. The highlights articulated in this edition portray a very small representation of the sporting successes during 2015/16, and whilst silverware is the nominal currency of achievement, the offer that is ‘Stirling Sport’ strays far beyond the gym, halls, pool or courts.

As Scotland’s University for Sporting Excellence, we are currently setting standards within and outwith the Higher Education sector. The opportunity exists however to create a sporting experience that is unrivalled and befits the dynamic, innovative and distinct reputation of the University. This roadmap will be defined within a new Strategy for Sport that will unleash everything that is brilliant and unique about the Stirling experience.

Let’s create a new chapter for sport at the University of Stirling – and make things happen!”

**Celebrating more sporting success**

University of Stirling golfers Gemma Batty, Craig Howie, Mathias Eggenberger, James Wilson, Laird Shepherd and Chris Maclean took Stirling to victory at the British Universities’ and Colleges Sport (BUCS) Golf Championship at Notts Golf Club in Nottinghamshire in April – in a convincing win against the University of the Highlands and Islands. Their most recent win means that the team now holds the European, British and Scottish titles – the grand slam of student golf.

While on the courts, University of Stirling tennis scholars proved to be a smash at the annual Scottish Indoor Tennis Championships at Newlands Lawn Tennis Club in February, taking all three hard-fought titles. Six reached the finals, including Scott Duncan, winning the men’s singles title in straight sets; and Patricia Skowronska smashing her way to victory in the women’s singles.

**Read the full stories at:**

[http://stir.ac.uk/199](http://stir.ac.uk/199) and [http://stir.ac.uk/19a](http://stir.ac.uk/19a)
Let’s start with art…

Curator Jane Cameron is responsible for overseeing the University’s extensive art collection, which features work by Elizabeth Blackadder, Ann Redpath and Adrian Wiszniewski among many others. Jane told us:

“It’s a busy time for our department right now in the run up to the University’s 50th Anniversary celebrations next year, with preparations to curate an exhibition to celebrate the 1960s and a free-to-enter exhibition entitled ‘James Hogg in the World’, which will be displayed in the Crush Hall next summer. Both exhibitions will be open to the public and local secondary school pupils.

“The focus of the curators is very much on making art and culture a part of everyday life for everyone on campus and the surrounding community through an active programme of events, including accessible tours, workshops, exhibitions and lectures. People tell us that the experience of interacting with art really enriches their lives and learning.

“If I had to choose just one favourite from the Art Collection, I think the answer might surprise people – I’d have to say the Pathfoot Building itself. It’s a unique example of modernist architecture, designed by John Richards and influenced by the Louisiana Museum in Denmark. Its plain walls, glazed elevations and simple detailing perfectly enhance our regular exhibitions and displays. The 21 courtyards are currently being landscaped and filled with sculptures, providing tranquil, inviting spaces, which will further enhance Pathfoot’s appeal.”

More information:

To arrange a visit, ask a question or to donate to the collection, please email: art.collection@stir.ac.uk
You can also find out more about the art collection at: http://stir.ac.uk/y5
Diving into the archives

The University of Stirling’s extensive archives are presided over by Archivist Karl Magee. Karl told us:

“While the archives include many committee papers and other formal documents to reflect the full picture of how the University has evolved in its 50 years, they also contain much ‘unofficial’ memorabilia, photographs, magazines and other items donated by staff and alumni.

“In preparation for Stirling’s 50th Anniversary, I am currently finalising plans for an exhibition about the University Library to be held in the library itself, and supporting an oral history project, masterminded by Stirling University Retired Staff Association (SURSA), which is capturing the memories of former staff and alumni.

“The archives also house a number of other collections of social and academic interest, such as the Commonwealth Games Archive, which toured Scotland as an exhibition in 2016; the Musicians’ Union collection, and the Scottish Political Archive.

“If I had to pick just one collection as a personal favourite, it would be the Brig Collection, which contains every issue of the University’s student newspaper from its launch in 1969 to the present day. Leafing through the issues you get a real feel for how the publication and campus life have changed over the years. There are some pretty high profile and fascinating events featured: from Queen and Elton John concerts in the early 1970s to the filming of ‘Monty Python and the Holy Grail’ and the premiere of ‘Braveheart’.”

More information:

To ask a question, volunteer, arrange a visit or to donate memorabilia from your time at Stirling, please email: archives@stir.ac.uk
You can also read more about the archives at: http://stir.ac.uk/14d
Kenny wins prestigious award

Stirling graduate receives international recognition from British Council

Congratulations to Kenny Chui Chi Man, who was awarded the British Council Education UK Alumni Award, for social Impact, in January.

After completing his Masters in Dementia Studies at Stirling, Kenny went on to challenge perceptions of dementia in Hong Kong, promoting a holistic and person-centred culture of care.

Kenny has most recently designed a one-year programme related to dementia care at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, where he is currently working on his PhD thesis. Kenny’s programme has already helped to improve interventions by nurses, social workers and therapists benefitting thousands of service users with dementia in their care.

Kenny said: “I am delighted to receive this award. I would like to express my gratitude to Lindsey Donald and Jen Forman in the Alumni Team at the University of Stirling for their support throughout this process. I’d also love to thank the staff at the Dementia Services Development Centre, who supported, encouraged and inspired me while I was studying at Stirling.

“Finally, everyone needs to be aware of the issues surrounding dementia and to help support and enhance the quality of life for people living with this terrible diagnosis. It’s important that people who are living with dementia have a voice and are encouraged to tell us their needs from their own perspectives. This is one of the key messages in my PhD thesis.”

Lindsey Donald, Head of Alumni Engagement added: “Kenny has made an exceptional contribution to people living with dementia. He is bringing about positive change and improving lives, and is a very worthy winner of this award.”

This is the second year in a row that Stirling alumni have been recognised for their professional achievements through a British Council Award. Last year, Delhi-based author Siddharth Chowdhury received the award in India for his literary success.

More information:

To find out more about the awards and the nomination process, please contact: alumni@stir.ac.uk
Merits of mentoring

Stirling alumni pass on their wisdom to the next generation of students

Over 30 third and fourth year students from the Faculty of Natural Sciences are the most recent to benefit from the Alumni Mentoring Programme, established in 2013.

The innovative scheme puts current students on the path to career success by embedding employability into student life, through regular contact with alumni mentors for general and career advice and job application support.

Carys Mainprize, a third year BSc Marine Biology student, is being mentored by Duncan Perrin, Risk Management Surveyor at Sunderland Marine Mutual Insurance Company and Guest Lecturer at the Institute of Aquaculture.

Carys said: “It's slightly terrifying to be graduating soon but much less so because Duncan has explained about how the sector works and he’s introduced me to some great connections such as an Environmental Biologist from the Fish Vet Group. Duncan’s mentorship has definitely helped me to grow in confidence.”

For Duncan’s part, he has enjoyed revisiting old campus haunts, as well as “helping to bridge the gulf between academic qualifications and practical experience.”

Dr Eunice Atkins, Employability Manager for the School of Natural Sciences welcomes the positive effects of the scheme:

“It is of great benefit to students and greatly strengthens their knowledge and understanding in relation to their future in the workplace,” she said.

An interesting internship

The Alumni team is instrumental in generating strong ties between the University and our alumni community. Alumna Emily Bell describes her recent internship with the team:

“I’ve been working as an intern in the Alumni Office on a project named ‘50 Faces of Stirling’, which will form part of the University’s 50th Anniversary promotion. My task has been to collect memoirs and photographs from the alumni community. I have met so many amazing people, including author and playwright Alan Bissett, Reverend Maggie Roderick, and even former First Minister of Scotland Lord Jack McConnell, as well as many former students who are now working at the University! It’s been a huge development opportunity for me.”

Emily Bell
BSc (Hons) Psychology, 2016

Sumaiya is Alumni Ambassador of the Year

Congratulations to Sumaiya Al Zadiali, who has been selected to be Alumni Ambassador of the Year 2015-16. Commenting on her new role, Sumaiya said:

“I feel privileged to be chosen... it is such a great opportunity to meet a diverse range of people, such as students, parents, staff, alumni and prospective students. I hope that I can help and guide students in their journey through University.”

Sumaiya Al Zadiali
BA Business Studies, 2006, based in Muscat
I have recently passed my Postgraduate Teaching Qualification in Further Education (TQFE) course and put on a Stirling gown for the second time at the June 2016 summer graduation.

Dr Christopher F Minty, PhD 2015 and BA (Hons) History 2010

Between August 2014 and September 2015, I was a ‘Bernard and Irene Schwartz Fellow’ at the New York Historical Society and Eugene Lang College, The New School of the Liberal Arts in New York City. In October 2015 I moved to Boston, where I joined ‘The Adams Papers’ at the Massachusetts Historical Society as an Assistant Editor.

Karen Lloyd, MLitt Creative Writing 2014

Congratulations to Karen on the success of her book: ‘The Gathering Tide; A Journey around the Edgelands of Morecambe Bay’, which was published in January by Saraband. Karen says: “I began writing it during my MLitt at Stirling 2013-14. Kathleen Jamie was my tutor and I gained a first for my dissertation (four chapters of the book), as well as an overall distinction. The book has gained some wonderful reviews, which you can read at: www.karenlloyd-writer.co.uk

Konstantinos Ioannidis, BA (Hons) Business Studies and Marketing 2014

I started my career as a Business Development Executive two years ago in a globally recognised fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) company and have also gained valuable experience from my role as an area manager there. The opportunity to manage, progress and develop a team has been priceless.

Joseph Welstead, BSc (Hons) Management 2013

I have just launched Motion Nutrition with my business partner Charles Matthews and both of us are Stirling graduates. Motion Nutrition is the first European brand to offer a range of organic sport supplements made from superfoods. For more information, visit: www.motionnutrition.com

Dr Brian Christopher Jones, PhD Law 2012

I have recently been appointed Lecturer in Public Law at Liverpool Hope University, Department of Law. A full list of my academic publications to date can be found at http://works.bepress.com/brian_jones

Indibar Ghosh, MSc Energy Management 2012

My studies for my MSc degree helped give me the confidence to start my own global venture, ‘Learners & Winners’, in the field of education and corporate training and development. Find out more at: www.lwtcpl.com or contact me on: indibar_biotech@yahoo.co.in

Dr Kriengkrai Satapornvanit, PhD Aquaculture 2006

I started my career as a Business Development Executive two years ago in a globally recognised fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) company and have also gained valuable experience from my role as an area manager there. The opportunity to manage, progress and develop a team has been priceless.

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My studies for my MSc degree helped give me the confidence to start my own global venture, ‘Learners & Winners’, in the field of education and corporate training and development. Find out more at: www.lwtcpl.com or contact me on: indibar_biotech@yahoo.co.in
I am now a member of the Faculty of Fisheries at Kasetsart University in Bangkok, Thailand, teaching undergraduate and postgraduate students. I am also the Faculty’s Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, and a committee member for standards development for research animals with the National Research Council of Thailand.

Janette Ayachi, BA (Hons) English/Film & Media Studies 2004

I am now a published poet. Being a student at the University of Stirling was such an empowering experience for me. You can read some of my work at: www.scottishpoetrylibrary.org.uk/poetry/poets/janette-ayachi

Yassir Pitalwalla, MSc Media Management 2004

I recently moved from my position of Consulting Editor of the alternative health and wellness magazine, ‘Homeopathy & You’, and am now the Contributing Editor at India’s most well-known business magazine, ‘Business India’. I am also pleased to announce that my wife and I are now parents to a baby boy!

Keith White, Class of 2001

When I was a student, digital marketing and social media were in their infancy, but now make up 85% of business volumes at Dobell, a formal menswear brand based in Eastbourne, where I reside as Head of SEO/Marketing. The lessons I learned at Stirling have proved to be timeless however.

Michelle Rose (née Harris), BAcc Accountancy & Business Studies 2000

Since graduating I have married and had three young children. I now also run my own business, ‘Custard and Bear’, providing marketing advice for small business owners and mumpreneurs via my #MarketingForMummies courses. I have also just released my first book ‘#FacebookThirty’, which teaches businesses how to improve their Facebook presence, available at: www.custardandbear.com

Dr Robert W. Robertson, PhD 2000

I was recently named a Fulbright Scholar by the United States Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Council for International Exchange of Scholars (CIES). I was also a keynote speaker at the Global Universities in Distance Education Conference in Madrid in June this year. My forthcoming work will take me to the Faculty of Economics at the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia to develop workplace-relevant skill training using online education tools and techniques.

Michelle Rose

1990s

Diamantis Kitridis, Diploma Investment Analysis 1998

I am experienced in developing strategies for social media, brand development and public relations, blogging and community development, statistical analysis and optimisation of search engines. I now specialise in the design and development of integrated strategies to promote companies, products, public figures and politicians in social media. I am also Course Director of the Diploma in Social Media, which is done in collaboration with City Unity College.

John Deuchars, BA (Hons) German 1996

I am currently volunteering for the British Red Cross shop in Perth and for the Black Watch Museum, which is based in Balhousie Castle. Some of the ceramic poppies, which were outside the Tower of London in November last year are currently on show at the Black Watch Museum.

Heidi Williamson (née Camish), BA French 1994

My second book has just been published by Bloodaxe Books. ‘The Print Museum’ is partly inspired by my three-year residency at the John Jarrold Printing Museum in Norwich, and was recently featured in ‘The Guardian’. My first book, ‘Electric Shadow’ (Bloodaxe, 2011) was a Poetry Book Society Recommendation and shortlisted for the Seamus Heaney Centre Prize for Poetry. I work as a poetry mentor and tutor for organisations, including Writers’ Centre Norwich and The Poetry Society. See www.heidiwilliamsonpoet.com for more information.

Stan Shires, BA Marketing 1994

I am now Owner Experience Manager for the Overseas Division of Jaguar Land Rover, which covers markets as diverse as Brazil and Australia. On a personal note, I have passed my flight training qualification so I can now fly four-seat, single-engine planes, and have bought a share in a plane, which I fly out of Gloucester Airport.

Heidi Williamson (née Camish), BA French 1994

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Dr Susan Eley Morris, MSc Applied Social Research 1993
I work with Five Point Soar Academy locally in Scotland where I nurture individuals; helping them with their written and online applications. I publish open learning: Dyslexia Friendly Style Easier to Read for Everyone and support individuals to flourish in Science for The Open University globally as a Learning and Teaching Professional (FHEA). Please connect and message me on LinkedIn.

Melissa Terlato Schmidt, Visiting Student, 1992
On behalf of the Eastman School of Music Office of Student Life, I have been awarded the Association of College Unions ‘International Shirley Bird Perry Staff-Driven Program of the Year Award’ for ‘Identities@Eastman’. This award, given to a programme created and implemented by professional staff, represents standards of excellence and innovation in campus programming, and recognises the impact of programming on student learning in higher education institutions.

1980s

Clive Wright, MPhil Modern French Literature 1989
I was recently named as the new Stirling Poet Laureate or Stirling ‘Makar’. This is a ceremonial position dating back to the 15th Century. I will hold the post for three years, during which time I will produce one poem per year to celebrate the Stirling area and its people. Stirling is such a wonderful place to live and to write about – my aim is to pass on my own passion for the area and encourage others to take up the pen.

Drew Law, BA (Hons) Philosophy, 1989
After a number of years in the book trade, I retrained as a psychotherapist. I now work in a busy GP surgery, and also have a private practice specialising in three areas: middle aged men, classical musicians, and adults whose issues originate in childhood sibling relationships. I live in London, am married with two lovely kids, and sing a cappella for relaxation.

Dr Christine Goodall OBE, BSc Biology 1985
I am Senior Clinical Lecturer at the University of Glasgow and Co-Founder of Medics Against Violence. I received an OBE in recognition of my services to violence protection and support.

Lesley Onslow (née Jolly), BSc Management Science with French Language 1985
After graduating 30 years ago I find myself back at the University of Stirling working in the Alumni team. After a career in Corporate Pensions, the last 20 years have taken me around the world as an army spouse. The nomadic lifestyle has provided many challenges on the home and work front! Highlights have included the Mojave Desert, Milan, Balmoral and working with the Pentagon in Washington DC.

Tom Nixon, BSc Management Science 1985
I have been resident in the California area since 1998 and I’m now a US citizen. I met up recently with Russell Mannion (BA Economics, 1985) in Berkeley and San Francisco. He’s now Professor of Health Systems at the University of Birmingham. We had a great time recalling our days at Stirling.

Jonas Berwick, BA English 1984
I moved to the US after graduating, where I travelled for a year before becoming a Security and Loss Prevention Manager for Federated Department Stores and then joining an investigative agency. In 1995 I opened up my own company, Delve Information Resources Inc., which I recently sold to my eldest son. I now work as a part-time retiree, managing real estate holdings and investment portfolios as Managing Member of Berwick Investment Group, LLC. I’m still in contact with my closest friend, Sir Paul Grice, Chief Executive of the Scottish Parliament and many other friends from my time at Stirling.

Petter Berge, BA Business Studies 1984
I moved back to Oslo after many years elsewhere – in Norway and abroad. I’m in the process of opening a new wealth and risk management boutique with fantastic partners, and debuting as the chairman of a new Norwegian oil company.
1970s

Rev Maggie Roderick (née Clarke), BA Psychology & Sociology 1979

I became the Parish Minister at Menstrie Parish Church on 5 November 2015, a day to remember. It’s great to live so close to the University and now, in addition, I’m delighted to have been appointed as a Lay Member of the University Court. I’m looking forward to this new area of work, supporting the University that has given me so much.

Professor Roddy Cowie, BA (Hons) Psychology & Philosophy 1972

After Stirling, I went to Sussex to do a PhD on human and machine vision. I was appointed as a lecturer in Psychology at Queen’s University, Belfast in 1975, and retired as a professor in 2013. My research included ‘affective computing’ (developing systems that can recognise human emotions and react appropriately). I am now writing a book on self-knowledge while I still have working neurones, and would be delighted to hear from other antiques! Find out about ‘affective computing’ on Google Scholar, or our ‘Sensitive Artificial Listeners’ on YouTube.

Friends of the University

We received this message from Jenny Tod, a former member of staff:

Dear overseas students of the 1980s and 1990s,

I would love to hear from you and from your families. I worked as the Overseas Welfare Officer in the Counselling Department from 1984 to 1994/95 and founded and ran the Welcome Centre for all overseas families. I got to know many of you very well and would love to hear about your families and what you are doing now. When I left the university I helped to run a spiritual retreat centre for two years and then returned to teaching. I am now teaching art and will shortly retire. My email is: jennytool245@btinternet.com. I look forward to hearing from some of you!

From Jenny Tod

Contacting Friends

Jonas Berwick, BA English 1984 is looking for his long-lost friend, Josie Catriona, BSc Psychology 1985, originally from Brentford, Essex and last known to be happily married with two children in London.

YW Lau, MBA Management Information Systems 1987 would like to get in contact with Betty, a cleaner who worked in Polwarth.

Paul Clelland, who left in 1996, was Captain of the Stirling University Football Club first XI in 1996. We recently helped Paul to organise a football reunion on 15 May, by putting him in touch with former players Jason Davie, Giacomo Lonzi, Lloyd Smart and Duncan Heal. “It was like five minutes had passed since we were together,” commented Paul. We always used to say: “You’re a Stirling boy till the day you die,” and it’s true!

A former elementary school classmate of Pei-Yi Jone, BA English Language Teaching 1996, would like to get in touch with her. If you can help, drop us an email at: alumni@stir.ac.uk
The University regrets to announce the following deaths:

**Alastair Bruce**,
MSc Social Work 1992

**Dr Kevin Fitzpatrick OBE**,  
BA Philosophy 1982

**John (Anthony) Hawkins**,  
BA Economics 1974

**Carol Susan Swan**,  
BA Biology 1971

**Dr Wendy Amy-Chinn**,  
retired member of staff from Communications, Media & Culture

**Andrew Bruce**, former Senior Teaching Fellow and retired member of staff in The Stirling Institute of Education

**Bishop Emeritus Ian Murray**, first Catholic Chaplain at the University in the 1970s

**Professor Karl Butzer**,  
DUniv 2011

It is also with great sadness that we announce the death of **Jim Bradley**. Jim joined the University as a contributor to the then Division of Academic Innovation and Continuing Education, working on projects to widen participation. He also went on to become Director of the Access Programme and Teaching Qualification in Further Education (TQFE) at the School of Education and was a tireless advocate for adult learners and inclusion. In recent years he had great success in developing European networks and EU funded projects on adult learning. He also played an active role in the University and College Union (UCU) over many years. His illness and subsequent retirement were a great shock to the many who worked with him. His funeral took place on Thursday, 28 January, at Daldowie Crematorium.

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**Sarah Grant**  
Congratulations to graduate Sarah Grant who has been awarded the Sky Academy Scholarship. Sarah, who graduated in 2012 with an honours degree in English Studies and Film & Media, will be working on a four-minute animation called ‘The Magic Word’, which focuses on a girl’s relationship with books throughout her life. The scholarship is worth £30,000 and will help support living costs and production of the film.

**Peter Pritchard**  
Congratulations to Peter Pritchard who has been promoted from his role of Chief Operating Officer in the Retail Division to Chief Executive Officer of the Retail Division, Pets at Home Group Plc. Peter graduated in 1998 with an MBA in Retailing.

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### Keeping in touch

You can also catch up with old friends on our social networking groups. Simply follow the links from:
- [www.stir.ac.uk/alumni](http://www.stir.ac.uk/alumni)

### Updating your contact details

Remember to let us know when you change address! You can do this by completing the form at [http://stir.ac.uk/dh](http://stir.ac.uk/dh) or by emailing: alumni@stir.ac.uk

### Lost alumni

Are you in touch with many of your Stirling friends? Do you know if any of them are not receiving emails or news from us? We are embarking on a campaign to find alumni from the 1980s and 1990s whom we’ve lost touch with. If you can help us with this, please email: alumni@stir.ac.uk
**Stirling Minds gets the lowdown from Kevin Condron, the official representative on University Court and former Sports Union President, about plans to commemorate Stirling’s 50 years of sporting prowess by re-establishing the Sporting Hall of Fame...**

You don’t earn the title of Scotland’s ‘University of Sporting Excellence’ without a significant number of sporting accolades in your trophy cabinet. Achieving in sport is in Stirling’s DNA, demonstrated by the performances of our student-athletes on the world stage.

With the University’s 50th Anniversary year fast approaching, a Sporting Hall of Fame will celebrate the exceptional sporting achievements of alumni, staff and coaches. Inductions will take place annually as part of the graduation celebrations and will include athlete awards, coach awards and lifetime contribution to sport awards.

The construction of a Sporting Hall of Fame Wall on campus will provide an inspiring, visual record of success.

With so much sporting success (see pages 22-23), we’re sure that the Sporting Hall of Fame will have no shortage of nominees!

Cathy Gallagher, new Director of Sport, will announce the nomination process this autumn.
Worldwide connections

The world’s our oyster

From Stirling to Stockholm, Shanghai to Singapore, the University of Stirling has an international network of over 55,000 alumni across 150 countries. Members of this global family, which includes alumni, staff, honorary graduates, current students, partners and friends, are making an impact across the world and helping to shape Stirling’s future.

Alumni Ambassador Programme

Almost 400 international Stirling graduates currently volunteer as Alumni Ambassadors, helping to raise the University’s international profile and supporting Stirling’s vision.

Stirling’s Alumni Ambassadors organise and host reunions to foster alumni connectivity. Our alumni also contribute to the University by supporting our graduate employability agenda through mentoring and providing internships and work placements to current students. The dedicated support and country-specific intelligence provided by our graduates helps us to build international connections and to strengthen our position on the global stage.

Great turnout for Tartan Week

A group of Stirling alumni joined thousands marching through New York’s streets as part of the annual Tartan Week celebrations in April.

Lindsey Donald, Head of Alumni Engagement, joined the celebrations. She said: “Although the weather was typically Scottish, it didn’t dampen the enthusiasm of our alumni. I was delighted that a number of them also brought along friends and family to take part in this great, fun event.”

More information:

To register interest in participating in next year’s Tartan Day Parade, please email alumni@stir.ac.uk

From Stirling to Tokyo

This year also saw Stirling host its fourth ‘Japan Week’ – open to all students, staff, alumni and members of the public. The week of celebrations included a keynote lecture on anime by Professor Darren Ashmore from Yamanashi Gakuin University, an evening concert with Paper Moon featuring Tatsuya Yamauchi, and a number of workshops featuring traditional Japanese arts such as ikebana, calligraphy and origami, as well as language classes.
Valued Vietnam National University partnership

The University has been collaborating with Vietnam National University for almost a decade now, delivering the innovative MSc Media and Communications Management programme at two sites: Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi. The course is popular with media and communications practitioners, many of whom hold high-level positions in government, media and commerce in Vietnam. The partnership is supported by the British Embassy, the Vietnamese Embassy, the British Council and Scottish Development International and has allowed the University to build its profile in Vietnam, showcasing high quality teaching and research activity.

Professor Matthew Hibberd, Programme Director said: “Vietnam is a fast-growing nation with a young population experiencing major social and economic changes. In the last eight years, our graduates have included some of Vietnam’s leading entrepreneurs who are responsible for driving Vietnamese growth and development internationally.”

We are hoping to organise an alumni reunion in late October. Likely to take place in Danang, the date is yet to be confirmed. If you would like to be kept up to date with plans, please email alumni@stir.ac.uk

International Festival celebrates diversity on campus

The annual International Festival for students took place in March and included a language immersion café, a German Oompah band evening and a street festival to showcase the array of clubs, societies and international opportunities for students. One of the highlights of the week was a competition to win a pair of return flights between Edinburgh and Istanbul, courtesy of our sponsors, Turkish Airlines. Arletta Gorecka, a first year law student was the lucky winner!
Future leaders

Generation Y is characterised by exceptional creativity; a trait demonstrated by recent graduate Robert Hester when he established the Generation Y Symposium.

Robert, who will shortly begin his career as a Global Management Trainee at AB InBev, graduated in June in Politics, Philosophy and Economics. He organised the symposium to “bring together the professional and academic worlds, to help enhance students’ career prospects and to help develop the leaders of tomorrow.”

Sponsored by the Royal Bank of Scotland and supported by the Stirling Fund and the Vice-Chancellor’s Fund, the Symposium brought together industry leaders from a variety of sectors including banking, law and recruitment.

Feedback from the 150 students attending has been very positive, with 93% of attendees rating it as ‘excellent’ or ‘very good’. This year’s Symposium, will take place in the Stirling Court Hotel on 22 October. Kerry Bryson, Director for Advancement commented: “This year’s Generation Y Symposium looks set to be another great event, which will give Stirling students’ career prospects a real boost, as well as helping to highlight the talent we have at the University to potential employers, like IBM, Hilton, Blackrock and PwC.”

If you would like to sponsor a future Symposium or get involved please email: alumni@stir.ac.uk

A return visit to campus doesn’t need to mean a class reunion.

Our excellent facilities are the perfect choice for a conference, event or short break.

• Hotel and guest accommodation for up to 2,000 guests
• Award-winning conference facilities with over 100 meeting rooms
• 468-seat theatre in the MacRobert Arts Centre
• Private dining for corporate events
• Free Wi-Fi, 50m pool, gym and cinema on site
Never has the potential for entrepreneurialism been greater nor arguably the potential to make significant sums from entrepreneurial enterprise.

However, in the words of guru-of-all-things-innovative Oli Barrett MBE, “If you boil enterprise education down to just being about money then you have missed the point.” Or, to quote another great man, Sir Winston Churchill, “With opportunity comes responsibility.”

Both are sentiments that resonate with Professor Sharon Bolton, Dean and Head of Stirling Management School (SMS); in regard to building the entrepreneurs of today and tomorrow she sums up the Stirling approach thus:

“At SMS we pride ourselves on developing a supportive and nurturing environment where entrepreneurialism and creativity can thrive, benefitting not just our undergraduate and postgraduate students, but also local businesses and the wider community.

“Management matters in all forms of human interaction and the grounding in sustainable management practice that SMS students receive, stands them in great stead for starting and sustaining their own business, progressing their career and generally having the discipline to succeed in life according to sound principles.”

An action-packed year

This year has seen tremendous recognition for the Management School and its work to foster entrepreneurialism:
• The School picked up the Small Business Charter Award.
• In May, a number of SMS students reached the finals of the Sports Innovation Challenge, run by the Sporting Chance Initiative, with Jeff Duah-Kessie and Andrew Gillen picking up a team award for ArmaSox, aimed at enhancing football performance.
• We also launched Student Consultancy Projects to the local business community allowing them to take forward a key project within their organisation that will make a step change in performance.
• Throughout the year, the Management School sponsored TheHeat16 (a Dragon’s Den style awards), the VIBE awards and Scottish Rural Awards, as well as being one of the main sponsors of Stirling Business Month.

A lifetime of opportunity

Links to the wider community and alumni are integral to the SMS approach. Many alumni revisit the campus to receive advice, mentor, inspire through guest lectures, or to offer placements to current students. If you would like to find out more about how you can support the Management School or if you need any advice on running your own business, please get in touch at: sms.alumni@stir.ac.uk
Recently announced as the new Scots Makar, alumna Jackie Kay MBE is a prolific, award-winning writer of short stories, novels, poetry and plays as well as holding a number of academic roles at UK universities. Jackie graduated from the University of Stirling with a BA in English Studies in 1983 and was awarded an Honorary Degree from the University in 2000.

Stirling Minds caught up with Jackie when she returned to Stirling to deliver a schools poetry day workshop to 100 local pupils.

Did you always want to be a writer?
The long convalescence after a road accident in my youth, set me to reading extensively. When I was little I had an ambition to be an actress – enthusiastically attending the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama – but I decided to concentrate on writing following some encouragement from the artist and writer Alasdair Gray.

Do you have a favourite memory of being a student at Stirling?
I loved being part of ‘The Women’s Collective’ and our get-togethers in the cottages in Biggar. I also loved attending the ‘MacBob’ and seeing brilliant theatre there like ‘Gay Sweatshop’. Most of all though, I loved my English seminars with Angela and Grahame Smith.

Has your perspective changed on students or university education since becoming an academic and Chancellor?
Universities are changed places in many ways – but in terms of the potential that they have to change your life, they are still very much the same.

You are obviously incredibly busy – what else is around the corner?
I’m currently working with academics at Stirling on creating a new digital anthology of British poetry. I’m looking forward to working with the National Theatre of Scotland on their production of ‘Red Dust Road’, and to coming back to see the students of Stirling during term time.
Opportunity knocks

Two alumni reflect on the tremendous opportunities Stirling opened up for them and offer a word or two of advice for today’s students.

Robert Guy Ramsay
BA (Hons) Business & Psychology (1989)
Current job: Investor

The flexible degree Stirling offered is the main thing I appreciated academically – having failed to choose the right major as a teenager, it was a relief to switch. The building blocks I developed at Stirling also helped me to achieve a psychology doctorate at St Andrews.

For me Stirling was just as special outside the classroom. My proudest and grimmest memory, is cycling from Land’s End to John O’Groats with Will Scott – we were total cycling amateurs and summited Scotland with the Kingdom’s rawest backsides! I remember all-nighters preparing the ‘Tin Drum’ magazine in 1987/88, army training sessions and Friday discos with DJ Hamish Hamilton. So many fantastic experiences!

Thanks to Stirling I also got my initial opportunity to work in Asia, when I attended an interview to teach in Japan at the Macrobert. Teaching in Nagoya led to psychology research in Tokyo and Hong Kong, then to working with a Chinese property conglomerate in Hong Kong. HSBC then headhunted me for their Asia headquarters. I met my wife, Rosalina, in Hong Kong, where we now live with our children.

Maggie Monteith
BA Social Sciences (1979)
Current job: LA-based film producer and financier

I started University at 17 in the 1970s and was excited to experience student life at a campus university. I vividly remember my first day in halls, opening the door of my room in Murray Hall, hearing music and laughter pouring into the corridor and knowing that this would be one of the defining times in my life. I met my husband Scott which was a real bonus!

I have great gratitude for the former University Secretary, Bob Bomont. He was committed enough to tell me where I could improve my negotiation skills, in a way that empowered me, and did not diminish my previous efforts.

Listening to the residence staff’s stories of national service and their union views, confirmed to me once and for all that all voices have import for a cohesive, happy society, and that’s what Stirling was then, a small village of a place, with all the characters you could wish for.

Stirling was the making of me. I could not have made it without the confidence, skills and voice that it gave me and being involved with a film that gets an Oscar isn’t too shabby.

My advice to current students
Grab every opportunity that Stirling offers; this university won’t let you down!

My advice to current students
By all means focus on getting the best degree you can. But if that’s all you leave with – what a waste that would be.
Recent alumni events

Nairobi, Kenya

Bertha Banda, International Recruitment Officer, hosted a drinks reception at the Fairview Hotel for Stirling alumni. She said: “It was a pleasure meeting alumni who spoke so highly of their experiences at Stirling, including having to buy their first winter coat!”

Athens

A traditional Scottish celebration was held at the British Residence to honour the birth of Scotland’s most famous poet, Robert Burns. The British Ambassador organised a wonderful event offering an authentic taste of Scotland.

Hong Kong

Lindsey Donald, Head of Alumni Engagement met a group of graduates in January to take forward the Hong Kong alumni chapter.

Facebook group at University of Stirling Alumni – Hong Kong Chapter: http://bit.ly/29l7gRG

to missing the Stirling weather! We look forward to welcoming a number of them back to study for their PhDs shortly.

Brussels

The Caledonian Society of Brussels held a ceilidh in honour of Robert Burns. A small group of Stirling friends attended and alumni volunteer Emma Russell (Class of 2004) managed to get her new husband into a kilt – again!

Beijing

We welcomed over 100 graduates and guests to a drinks reception held at Hanfenlou, The Commercial Press, hosted by Deputy Principal, Professor Malcolm MacLeod. Guests had travelled from as far as Shanghai to meet University representatives and were also treated to a calligraphy and painting showcase, as well as a guqin (traditional Chinese instrument) performance.

Muscat

We had a fantastic reunion, with a mixture of alumni coming together, who had graduated over a 10-year period. Despite Oman’s sunny climate, all alumni confessed

Berlin

While on holiday in the city, Lindsey Donald used the opportunity to meet with some alumni for a post-work drink in BRYK Bar. It was a successful first-ever alumni event for Berlin and we are keen to build the Stirling network in Germany.

If you’d like to link up with other alumni in Germany or to organise small-scale events, please email alumni@stir.ac.uk

Washington

The first Washington alumni event was held in May at the Willard Hotel, hosted by graduate, and fundraising manager Stuart Rennie. The event was attended by 14 alumni, including one couple (Anne and Andrew Mackie), who met at the University.

Los Angeles

Whilst on a visit to UCLA, Lindsey Donald met with some of our alumni based in LA, both former students from the UK, as well as visiting students from the US.
Forthcoming events

**alumni**

**Kirkland BBQ, Washington State**

Sat 6 Aug

There will be another BBQ taking place at Jim Toland’s house in Kirkland, Washington State. Jim promises a fun event for alumni and their families. We hope you are able to join us. Email alumni@stir.ac.uk or Jim on grofaz@outlook.com for more information.

**Calling all mid-80s folks for a 2nd Maisie’s Reunion**

Sat 27 Aug

Billy Gilmour has organised the 2nd Maisie’s Reunion from 7pm in the original Maisie’s (Studio in the Students’ Union). A night of great music, company and perhaps a wee Moonwalker is planned. Well-known faces including Sarah Slater, Gillian McLaughlin, Will Goodall, Neil Winton and John Boyd will be entertaining. Val Hendry will do her legendary interpretation of Bruce Springsteen and Los Trios Sneakos will impersonate their younger selves. Tickets cost £10 and can be bought from the online shop. Email billgilmour50@gmail.com or jennifer.forman@stir.ac.uk for more information.

**Singapore**

Thu 6 Oct

An alumni reunion will be held in Singapore following Graduation. Final details and venue to be confirmed.

**campus**

**Open Days**

Sat 17 Sep & Sat 29 Oct

9.00am – 4.00pm

Come in, we’re open! If you are interested in studying at the University of Stirling, our Open Days offer campus tours, a range of interesting, informative presentations, and a variety of talks and displays. You can also speak to University support staff, academics and students. All prospective students, parents, teachers and careers advisers are welcome! Please see our Open Day webpages to find out more and book.

**John Damien Lecture**

Thur 13 Oct

Join Professor Dorothy Bishop, Professor of Developmental Psychology at the University of Oxford, a specialist in atypical language development in children for our annual Psychology lecture.

**Williamson Lecture**

Thur 20 Oct

Now in its fourth decade, this year’s Williamson Lecture will welcome Ruth Davidson, Leader of the Scottish Conservatives, and now the main opposition in the Scottish Parliament.

**University of Stirling and Logie Kirk debate**

Tue 15 Nov

‘What is the place of prison in contemporary Scotland?’

This popular bi-ennial event considers one of the key moral issues of our time, with speakers including Mr David Strang, HM Inspectorate of Prisons for Scotland, Very Rev Andrew McLellan, Pete White of Positive Prisons and Criminology representatives from the University of Stirling.

**Hetherington Lecture**

TBC

Following last year’s thought-provoking talk with journalist Allan Little about the BBC, we are putting the final touches in place for the Hetherington Lecture 2016.

**More information**

Further details of these and other public events at the University of Stirling will be published at http://stir.ac.uk/95

**Macrobert**

Macrobert Arts Centre will be holding a range of events over the next few months, including comedy from Jason Byrne and the Christmas panto, ‘Weans in the Woods’. See www.macrobot.org for details.

**Come along!**

All are welcome to attend events at the University and our events are free to staff, alumni, students and members of the wider community. For further information, visit http://stir.ac.uk/95
An area of garden to the east of the Stirling campus is set to undergo a creative transformation as part of the University’s 50th Anniversary celebrations.

The new Garden of Imagination will comprise floral meadows and specimen trees, and will enjoy spectacular views over Airthrey Castle and the National Wallace Monument. It is hoped that the garden will provide an oasis of calm on campus for staff, alumni and the local community, where they can take time to reflect in a unique and inspirational setting.

Planning is currently underway to create a path from the main entrance to a central water feature, which will be flanked with commemorative flagstones.

Donors can also choose to recognise a loved one through a memorial plaque or sculpture. Professor John Forty, former Principal of the University of Stirling and founder donor commented:

“We are privileged to have one of the most beautiful campuses in the UK. As we look back over the last 50 years, our thoughts turn to the happy memories of our time here, as well as to those who are no longer with us. The Garden of Imagination encapsulates all this to provide a fitting and inspiring tribute, as well as a pleasant space for reflection.”

Dee’s legacy to shine on through scholarship

Former Lecturer Dr Dee Amy-Chinn sadly died of cancer in December but her legacy will continue for years to come through a Gender Studies Scholarship established by her family.

During her time at Stirling, Dee was a lecturer in the Division of Communication, Media and Culture and helped to found the MSc/MLitt (Applied Programme). Dee, a ‘ray of sunshine’ to all who knew her, was fondly remembered in a memorial event at Pathfoot, where her family announced the establishment of the ‘Dr Dee Amy-Chinn Gender Studies Scholarship’ in tribute to Dee’s life and work. It will support Gender Studies students who enter the programme through a non-traditional route, who face financial challenges, or who are the first in their family to attend university.
The Stirling Fund says thank you

Thank you to the 170 alumni who supported the Stirling Fund this year, raising more than £32,500. The Fund supports a wide variety of projects that address urgent student need and/or enrich the student experience, from the purchase of essential sporting equipment to the creation of innovative events such as the Employability Festival, which received funding last year.

The Festival, organised by the Student Activities and Volunteer Coordinator, covered everything from careers advice to volunteering and women in leadership. Students from the Law Society also piloted a free legal clinic that gave legal advice to students and also allowed law students to learn directly from a qualified lawyer. The Society has since met with other universities to assess how to establish the clinic on a permanent basis.

Students also benefitted from a project entitled ‘Politics engagement #GenerationVote’, which campaigned to engage students and the local community in the run-up to the Scottish Parliament Election. The project included an exhibition focusing on the 2014 referendum, as well as involving guest speakers, debates and other events.

Calling our alumni

The majority of funds raised for the Stirling Fund come via our telethon campaign, which sees students contact alumni to ask about your experiences on campus, as well as to provide an update on the most recent and exciting developments at your alma mater. On behalf of the student callers, thank you for sharing your collective memories.

Professor Karen Boyle, Co-Director of the Centre of Gender and Feminist Studies said: “Dee published widely and eclectically, on everything from popular television to feminist pedagogy. She was a supportive colleague and an inspiring teacher, who brought out the best in her students. She is missed on a daily basis.”

More information:

http://stir.ac.uk/19b

Successful recipients of the Stirling Fund awards

More information:

Everyone is invited to contribute to the Stirling Fund at:

http://stir.ac.uk/ji
The University of Stirling has been ranked as one of the TOP 400 universities in the world. TOP 45 in the UK and 6th in Scotland. The University of Stirling has been ranked as one of the TOP 150 most international universities in the world. 1st in Scotland and 12th in the UK for Health Sciences. Queen’s Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education for ground-breaking social marketing research. The University of Stirling has been ranked 3rd in the UK and 1st in Scotland for graduate employability.

1. Times Higher Education World University Rankings (2016)
2. Research Excellence Framework (REF2014)
3. Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2016
4. Research Excellence Framework (REF2014)
5. The Royal Anniversary Trust 2013
6. QS World Rankings 2016
7. The Guardian University Guide 2017
8. Times Higher Education/HESA 2016

www.stir.ac.uk